



# Islamabad POST

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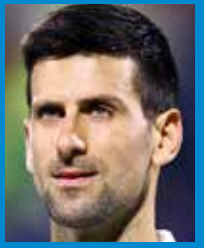
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## Defence Day of Pakistan

# Nation stands with forces to defeat 'evil designs': PM

1965 war symbol of unwavering national resolve, says President Arif Alvi

KHAYAM ABBASI / DNA

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwarul Haq Kakar said on Wednesday that the entire nation stood united alongside the country's armed forces to thwart "evil designs" against Pakistan's prosperity and integrity. The premier made the remarks as the nation marked its 58th Defence Day to commemorate the sacrifices of fallen heroes during the 1965 war. The day dawned with 31-gun salute at the federal capital and 21-gun salute at provincial capitals. Change of guard ceremonies were also held at the mausoleums of Quaid-i-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah and Allama Iqbal in Karachi and Lahore, respectively. In his message for Defence Day, Kakar said that September 6 was remembered as a day of vigour, bravery, courage and resilience. A report by Radio Pakistan quoted Kakar as saying, "This glorious day, where the entire Pakistani nation stood side by side with its armed forces, calls upon us to make a pledge to renew the spirit of loyalty and service to Pakistan and pay tribute to valiant sons of the soil who embraced martyrdom while ensuring security of the nation." The premier further said that the country's defence was not limited to September 6 and stretched "an entire lifetime and encompasses all dimensions of physical and ideological frontiers which need to be guarded". He said that at a time when Pakistan was confronted with multiple security challenges, in the form of extremism, terrorism and external aggression, the entire nation "stood united alongside their defence forces, to thwart evil designs against the integrity and prosperity of Pakistan". Separately, the premier laid a wreath and offered prayers at the Pakistan Monument in Islamabad. Speaking to the media on the occasion, Kakar said, "We come here to pay tribute to the valiant sons of the soil who embraced martyrdom while ensuring the security of the nation."

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## 'Strong economy vital for invincible defence'

NEWS DESK

RAWALPINDI: Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Asim Munir Wednesday stressed the importance of a strong economy for invincible defence, saying mutual cooperation is the key to the economic development of the country. In a statement, commemorating Defence and Martyrs' Day, the army chief also berated those who tried to undermine the strong bond between the military and people. "Pakistan Army as a national institution foiled it [sinister attempt] with great patience and wisdom," the statement added, quoting Gen Asim, read. The COAS also termed unity and trust between the military and people a great asset. Gen Munir said Defence and Martyrs' Day is an important milestone in our national and military history. "This day reminds us of the eternal sacrifices of our armed forces." He said armed forces thwarted the Indian aggression in the 1965 war with courage and professionalism and added that the nation displayed unity and solidarity during the conflict. "With this spirit, we thwarted the enemy's aggression," the COAS said. The Pakistan Army holds a prominent position in the world due to its discipline and high professional standards, Gen Munir said adding that the military is always ready to respond to any aggression of the enemy.

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ISLAMABAD: To pay homage and tribute to the martyrs and ghazis of the 1965 war, Caretaker PM Anwarul-Haq Kakar laying floral wreath and offering dua at Pakistan Monument. - DNA

## Embassy denies rejecting visas to Pakistan-Americans

DNA

WASHINGTON: The Pakistan Embassy in the United States (US) has dispelled the reports claiming that Pakistani Americans are being denied visas to visit their homeland, saying "there is no truth to the rumours". "This is a misinformation and disinformation", the spokesperson for the embassy clarified. The embassy's clarification came following the US State Department's press briefing wherein a question was raised regarding visas of Pakistani-Americans being rejected for travelling to their homeland.

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## Curbing the 'dollarization' Government cracks down against dollar smuggling, hoarding

Dollar to further shed in coming days; Bank of Pakistan (SBP) decides to introduce structural reforms

MAHNOOR ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: In a move against the cartels of organised crimes, the government launched a crackdown to curb dollar smuggling and hoarding. As per the Ministry of Interior, lists of the groups involved in the crimes has been prepared after the identification of facilitators of the government officials and their patrons. It said that the illegal movement of goods and currency will not be allowed, trading of commodities and currency will be transformed, while surveillance systems at land, sea and airports will also be upgraded. Meanwhile, amid the presence of a grey market of the dollar, the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) on Wednesday decided to introduce structural reforms in order to bring "transparency" in the exchange companies sector. "As part of these reforms, leading banks actively

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## Japanese govt delegation meets with SIFC

DNA

ISLAMABAD: A Japanese government delegation, comprising Takuma Ota-ki, Muryama Katsuhiko and Sakamoto Sayaka, the representatives from the Japanese Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, and Hiraki, Commercial Attaché, Embassy of Japan convened with the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) at the PM Secretariat here on Wednesday. The primary agenda of this significant

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## Briefs

### Elahi's 2-day physical remand

MEHTAB PIRZADA

ISLAMABAD: An Anti-Terrorism Court (ATC) in Islamabad on Wednesday approved a two-day physical remand of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) President Chaudhry Parvez Elahi in a case pertaining to an attack on Judicial Complex Islamabad. He was taken into custody by the Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD) police after the ATC announced the reserved verdict. During the proceedings in ATC today, Elahi's Lawyer Ali Bukhari prayed to the court that there was no mention of interrogation in the police's request for physical remand. "What did the investigating officer do in 24 hours?" Elahi's counsel implored.

### NAB summons Bushra Bibi

DNA

RAWALPINDI: The National Accountability Bureau (NAB) has summoned the wife of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chief Bushra Bibi in Toshakhana case. As per details, the NAB Rawalpindi issued notice to Bushra Bibi and summoned her tomorrow at 11 am in connection with Toshakhana case. The notice stated that the wife of PTI chief received one chain, locket, and earrings on June 26, 2019, whereas on September 18, 2020, Bushra Bibi received a diamond and gold ring, bracelet and necklace and did not declare it in her assets.

## Army Act amend, Official Secrets Act challenged

The plea stated that President Arif Alvi has not signed the Official Secrets (Amendment) Bill 2023 and Pakistan Army Act (Amendment) Bill 2023 and it also violates basic human rights

BUREAU REPORT

KARACHI: Sindh Bar Council (SBC) has challenged the Official Secrets (Amendment) Bill, 2023 and Pakistan Army Act (Amendment) Bill, 2023 in Supreme Court of Pakistan. As per details, the plea was filed by SBC urging the Supreme Court to declare the amendments null and void. The plea stated that President Arif Alvi has not signed the Official Secrets (Amendment) Bill 2023 and Pakistan Army Act (Amendment) Bill 2023 and it also violates basic human rights. Earlier, President Arif Alvi denied signing the Official Secrets (Amendment) Bill 2023 and Pakistan Army Act (Amendment) Bill 2023. Arif Alvi took to X [formerly known as Twitter] and said God is his witness that he did not sign Official Secrets Amendment Bill 2023 and Pakistan Army Amendment Bill 2023 as he disagreed with these laws. According to the contents of the bill, unauthorized disclosure of information obtained

Continued on Page 06

## PDM govt spent billions on media ads

Rs 500 million given to MPs who voted in the motion of no-confidence

AGENCIES

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) government has spent billions on media advertisements in the midst of an economic crisis. As per details, the secretary information briefed the senate standing committee on information on the amount

Continued on Page 06

## Four soldiers embrace shahadat

DNA

RAWALPINDI: On 6 September 2023, a large group of terrorists equipped with latest weapons, attacked two Pakistani military posts located closer to Pakistan Afghanistan border in general area Kalash, District Chitral. Terrorists' movement and concentration in Gawardesh, Pitigal, Barg-e-Matel and Batash areas of Nuristan and Kunar provinces of Afghanistan had already been picked up and were timely shared with Interim Afghan Government. Owing to heightened threat environment, own posts were already on high alert. The valiant soldiers fought bravely and

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## 'Israel enforcing apartheid system in West Bank'

Tamir Pardo becomes the latest former senior official to have concluded that Israel's treatment of Palestinians in the West Bank amounts to apartheid

AGENCIES

HERZLIYA: A former head of Israel's Mossad intelligence agency told during an interview that Israel is enforcing an apartheid system in the West Bank, joining a tiny but growing list of retired officials to endorse an idea that remains largely on the fringes of Israeli discourse and international diplomacy. Tamir Pardo becomes the latest former senior official to have concluded that Israel's treatment of Palestinians in the West Bank amounts to apartheid, a reference to the system of racial separation in South Africa that ended in 1994. Leading rights groups in Israel and abroad and Palestinians have accused Israel and its 56-year occupation of the West Bank of morphing into an apartheid system that they say gives Palestinians second-class status and is designed to maintain Jewish hegemony from the Jordan River to the Mediterranean Sea. A handful of former Israeli leaders, diplomats and security men have warned that Israel risks becoming an apartheid state, but Pardo's language

was even more blunt. "There is an apartheid state here," Tamir Pardo said in an interview. "In a territory where two people are judged under two legal systems, that is an apartheid state." Given Pardo's background, the comments carry special weight in security-obsessed Israel. Pardo, who served as head of Israel's clandestine spy agency from 2011-2016, wouldn't say if he held the same beliefs while heading the Mossad. But he said that he believed among the country's most pressing issues was the Palestinians - above Iran's nuclear program, seen by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu as an existential threat. Pardo said that as Mossad chief, he repeatedly warned Netanyahu that he needed to decide what Israel's borders were, or risk the destruction of a state for the Jews. In the past year, Pardo has become an outspoken critic against Netanyahu and his government's push to reshape the judicial system, slamming his old boss for steps he said would lead Israel to become a dictatorship. His candid evaluation Wednesday of

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## PCJCCI suggests promoting tissue-culture labs

LAHORE : Pakistan China Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCJCCI) on Wednesday suggested that Pakistan should enhance export of potatoes by establishing and promoting Tissue-Culture Laboratories, as the country is one of the major exporters of potato and also self-sufficient in its domestic use. The joint chamber's President Moazzam Ghurki, while giving his input in a think-tank session held here at PCJCCI Secretariat, mentioned that floods had devastated many kinds of crops in Pakistan, while potato production soared to 7.937 million tonnes in fiscal year 2022-23 from 5.873 million tonnes in the FY 2021-22, up by 35 percent as floods did not hit Punjab which is a hub of potato production. By contrast, he continued, Pakistan imports 20,000 tons of potato seeds every year and most of the potato seeds in Pakistan highly depend on imports and the initial cost of potato production is high because 35 to 40 percent of the cost goes to seeds, and there is a dire need to make it cost-effective for the low-income farmers. "Therefore, we should promote Tissue-Culture Laboratory for the affordable seed production of potatoes at massive scale in Pakistan rather than depending upon expensive foreign seeds," he suggested. PCJCCI Senior Vice President Fang Yulong said that Pakistani and Chinese enterprises have been working tirelessly to find opportunities for cooperation in this sector. In addition to seed production, related potato by-products are also welcome Chinese investors. Besides this, mechanised harvesting, pest control are also full of opportunities for investment. He added that in order to build Pakistan's largest potato tissue culture lab, various Chinese agricultural enterprises are involved for its practical implementation. The most common potato diseases in Pakistan include early blight, stem rot and so on. In contrast, Chinese varieties are more resistant to pests and diseases with higher yields, which is exactly what Pakistan needs to learn to improve our own potato germ plasma.—APP

## Flag hoisting ceremony held in Sukkur to observe Pakistan Defense Day

SUKKUR : A simple but solemn flag-hoisting ceremony was held in Sukkur on the occasion of Pakistan Defense Day. Mayor Sukkur Barrister Arslan Sheikh, Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Sukkur, Liaqat Ali Kalhoro, Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Sindh Rural Support Organization (SRSO), Deputy Mayor Sukkur Dr Arshad Mughal, elected representatives and administrative officers participated. Mayor Sukkur said that Defense Day is celebrated every year in remembrance of the heroic deeds and great sacrifices made by our brave forces and nation against the enemy in the September 1965 war. He said that this day reminds us of the great spirit by which the Pakistan Army with the full support of the people thwarted the nefarious aggression of the enemy. He said that this day and flag are a reminder of the passion and selflessness of the nation and the everlasting sacrifices they made in the protection of this holy land.—APP



ISLAMABAD: A large number of the Shiite Muslims are participating in the procession of Chehlum of Hazrat Imame-Hussain (RA) in Federal Capital.— Online

# ISSI holds event marking Pakistan Defence Day

MUHAMMAD ADIL

ISLAMABAD : The Arms Control and Disarmament Centre (ACDC) at the Institute of Strategic Studies, Islamabad (ISSI) organized an event to mark Pakistan Defence Day under the theme, "Achieving Self-Reliance through Defence Indigenization." Ambassador Sohail Mahmood, Director General ISSI, highlighted the invaluable services of the armed forces in the defence of Pakistan and of the nation, that stood like a solid rock with them, in thwarting Indian aggression on September 6, 1965. He also expressed profound gratitude for the sacrifices of martyrs and their families and stressed that this was a Day to reaffirm our commitment to

defend Pakistan at all costs. He highlighted that Pakistan lived in a difficult geo-strategic neighborhood marked by myriad threats and challenges. "Today's security environment has significantly changed and besides traditional and non-traditional threats, new challenges like hybrid warfare have emerged, which not only have a physical effect on a country but also seek to undermine the spirit and morale of a nation," he noted. Thus, Pakistan must have the ability to defend itself across the entire spectrum of threats and challenges. He concluded that self-reliance in defence was a critically important goal; a lot of progress had been made while a lot more was to be accomplished to reduce dependence on external sources and have robust

indigenous capability. Earlier, Malik Qasim Mustafa, Director of ACDC, in his remarks stated that the nation commemorates this national day as one of the proudest moments in Pakistan's history when Pakistani soldiers sacrificed their lives to safeguard our free-

dom and protect our homeland. He further highlighted the defence indigenization journey from 1951, when the first ordnance factory to manufacture rifles and ammunition was established to today when Pakistan has more than 20 major public units and over 100 private

sectors that engaged in defence production of Pakistan. Pakistan's Major achievements include Tank Al Khalid, JF-17 Thunder, Super Mushshak, and K-8. He highlighted that Pakistan's exports of arms, ammunition, parts, and accessories surged to \$415.650 million in FY2023. In her presentation, Ms. Aamna Rafiq, Research Associate ACDC, said that Pakistan started its defence journey in 1947 with only 33% of defence assets from united India. There were no ordnance factories and assets at its inception to boost the country's defence. Pakistan faced a war over Kashmir right at its inception, and still others in 1965 and 1971. Embargoes were placed, which underscored the need for self-reliance in ensuring Pakistan's defence.



## CM visits Memorial Teaching Hospital, Rangpura Police Station

SIALKOT : Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi visited Allama Iqbal Memorial Teaching Hospital, Rangpura Police Station and Sialkot Sambrial Road, late at last night. The Chief Minister made a detailed visit to the entire hospital including emergency, CT scan room, baby ward, medical ward, surgical ward, ENT ward, nephrology ward and others. He expressed deep concern over the condition of the hospital. Dirty and blood-stained bed sheets and insects were found in the different wards of the hospital, cockroach and insects were seen crawling in the wards and found the washrooms in a bad condition. He inquired the patients under treatment and re-

viewed the medical facilities provided to them in the hospital. On this occasion, the patients and the doctors complained about the misbehavior of the hospital guards, while the patients and the attendants also complained about conducting some tests from outside the hospital. Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi expressed his anger on the lack of facilities and the bad situation in the hospital and warned the principal and MS. The CM directed that the situation of the hospital should be improved immediately and the complaints of the patients should be resolved in a timely manner. He directed to immediately shift the 4-year-old girl Haya Fatima, who was being treated in the child ward, to

the Children's Hospital in a special ambulance. The CM Punjab ordered immediate legal action against the policemen and the hospital guard, who took money on the complaint of a woman in the child ward. The police immediately arrested the policeman and the hospital guard and departmental action has also been initiated against them. The woman prayed from CM Punjab Mohsin Naqvi. The Chief Minister also met the patients attendants on the roof of the first floor and asked them the problems. The attendants, especially women, complained about extortion and misbehavior of the hospital guards. After visiting the hospital, Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi reached

Rangpura police station and inspected its various sections. Mohsin Naqvi reviewed the action on citizens' requests at the front desk. He also asked the accused about their cases in police station lockup. The CM appreciated the cleanliness arrangements in the police station. Later, CM Punjab also visited Sialkot Sambrial Road. He gave instructions to the Secretary Construction and Communications for the early construction and rehabilitation of road. Inspector General Punjab Police, Secretary Health, Secretary Construction and Communications, Deputy Commissioner and DPO were also present on this occasion.—APP



ISLAMABAD: Head of South and Central Asia Division, Voice of America Ayesha Tanzeem on Wednesday called on the Speaker National Assembly Raja Pervez Ashraf in Islamabad. Syed Shamoon Hashmi Additional Secretary National Assembly and Ali Furqan correspondent VOA were also present in the meeting.—DNA

## Pakistan Navy marks Defence Day

All ships and establishments were decorated and illuminated in accordance with naval traditions. Other activities of the day included various sports matches in Pakistan Navy units

NAZIR SAYAL

KARACHI : Pakistan Navy Wednesday celebrated 'National Defence Day' with reverence and effervescent spirit to commemorate supreme sacrifices of the Armed Forces, Shuhada, Ghazis and national heroes who stood against the enemy with unparalleled display of unity and tenacity during 1965 Indo-Pak War. In his message on the occasion, Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi paid homage to the Shuhada and Ghazis who repulsed blatant

aggression of enemy and foiled its nefarious designs with support of the people, a Pakistan Navy news release said. The day displayed the spirit of unity and sacrifice in the defence of our motherland and glorifies the indomitable bond of the Nation and the Armed Forces to stand together in the face of adversity and belligerence. The admiral reiterated that Pakistan Navy maintained perpetual readiness to deter war, ensure maritime defence and proactively contributed to nation building initiatives. The day dawned with special prayers offered in all naval mosques for preservation of

integrity and sovereignty of Pakistan. Quran Khawani was held for interminable peace of Shuhada of the 1965 war. Chief of Staff, Vice Admiral Naveed Ashraf laid floral wreath at Shuhada's Monument at Naval Headquarters Islamabad, interacted with the families of Shuhada and offered Fateha.



The wreath laying ceremonies and Fateha Khawani were also held at Shuhada's memorials at Field Command Headquarters. Flag hoisting ceremonies were held at all naval units and establishments wherein Commanding Officers of all units and establishments addressed special gatherings of officers and men and highlighted the significance of the day. All ships and establishments were decorated and illuminated in accordance with naval traditions. Other activities of the day included various sports matches in Pakistan Navy units.

## LESCO to dismiss officers involved in electricity thieves

LAHORE : Lahore Electric Supply Company (LESCO) on Wednesday decided to immediately dismiss the officers/officials and field staff found involved in facilitating electricity thieves by any means. In this regard, LESCO Chief Executive Officer Engineer Shahid Haider chaired a high-level meeting here and prepared a comprehensive strategy for taking an effective and coordinated action against electricity thieves, besides issuing categorical directions to all Circle SEs (Superintending Engineers), Chief Law Officer and Circle Legal Council. It has been decided in principle to immediately dismiss the officers and staff who facilitate electricity thieves. "We have one point agenda that power thieves will not be spared in any case even if the facilitators include LESCO employees. Cases will be registered against the officials involved in electricity theft, and LESCO officers and officials involved in the power theft facilitation will also be dismissed from their jobs," he warned. The CEO directed all SEs to identify power theft and problem areas and prepare lists accordingly. Share the data of electricity theft with law enforcement agency so that electricity thieves are dealt with iron hands, besides conducting intelligence-based targeted raids against electricity thieves.—APP

## Rescue 1122 launches motorcycle ambulance service

PESHAWAR : Director-General of Rescue 1122, Dr. Khateer Ahmed has announced the launch of the motorcycle ambulance service in Peshawar. In a statement issued on Wednesday, he emphasized that this service would ensure prompt assistance during traffic jams and road closures. These motorcycle ambulances will serve as first responders when emergency calls are received, he said. He said that these motorcycle ambulances were equipped with essential medical equipment such as BP monitors, glucometers, pulse oximeters and nebulizers. Basic medical supplies will also be readily available on the motorcycles and the Rescue 1122 emergency medical technicians will be on board, he added.—APP

## KU distributes free licensed software

KARACHI : The University of Karachi equipped its students enrolled in MPhil and PhD programs in different departments and research centers and institutes with Institutional IDs so that they could easily access research journals and books for their research work besides connecting them to the foreign research supervisors and research community around the world. The students of MPhil and PhD programs will now use the researcher account which has the domain 'ku.edu.pk', which is designated for young researchers. Vice Chancellor of the Uni-

versity of Karachi Professor Dr Khalid Mahmood Iraqi on Wednesday officially launched the new domain service by issuing the Institutional IDs to different students during a ceremony held at the VC Secretariat. He shared that a majority of the postgraduate students had to ask their course supervisors, to access a particular research paper or a journal, so that they could get notes and points from that paper or journal for their research work. Dr Khalid Iraqi said that now such young researchers would be able to get the required information at single click.

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For further information please contact the following.

**Maj (r) Sabih Ur Rehman**  
Mobile: 0300 8553342

## National Days and Armed Forces Days

### SEPTEMBER

- Sept 01 / Libya  
Revolution Day
- Sept 01 / Tanzania  
Defence day
- Sept 01 / Uzbekistan  
Independence Day
- Sept 07 / Brazil  
Independence Day
- Sept 09 / DPR Korea  
National Day
- Sept 09 / Tajikistan  
Independence Day
- Sept 16 / Malaysia  
Armed Forces Day
- Sept 16 / Mexico  
National Day
- Sept 16 / Papua  
New Guinea  
Independence Day
- Sept 18 / Chile  
National Day
- Sept 21 / Malta  
Independence Day
- Sept 23 / Saudi Arabia  
National Day

## Hotels & Restaurants



Serena Hotel.....111 133 133  
Marriott.....051- 2826121  
Monal.....0334-5421812



Turkish Airlines.....8494949



## Emergency

Rescue (Police).....15  
Bomb Disposal.....15  
Fire Services Rawalpindi/  
Islamabad.....1122 & 16  
Emergency Ambulance.1122  
& Rescue Services.4451122  
Motorway Police...9266044  
Motorway Police.9270601-20  
Women Police Stations  
Islamabad.....9222596  
Rawalpindi.....9270601-20



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PIA Flight Info.....114  
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Railway Inquiry.....117  
Railway Exchange9270831-5  
WASA Rawalpindi.5555489  
CAA.....9281092



## Hospitals

CMH.....5611111  
MH.....5611116  
Cantt Hospital...9270907-11  
DHQ.....5556311-4  
RGH.....9290301-7  
Holy Family.....9290322-7  
PIMS.....9261170-79  
Polyclinic.....9218300-09  
Shifa International 4603666



## Departments

CDA.....9221334-43  
CDA.....9208301-04  
Met Office.....9250360-6  
RDA.....5555864  
TMA.....5770886  
Cantonment Board 9270151-3

## Water Tank

Islamabad.....0321-5744480



ISLAMABAD: Students of The Educators, Capital Campus, taking part in a tableo to express solidarity with the armed forces of Pakistan during the defence day celebrations.— DNA

## Energy Minister pledges strong action against electricity theft

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Minister for Energy, Power and Petroleum Muhammad Ali Wednesday underlined government's unwavering resolve to address electricity theft through stringent measures. In a press conference alongside Minister for Information and Broadcasting, Murtaza Solangi and Secretary, Energy and Power Division Rashid Mahmood Langrial, he announced the establishment of a task force to overcome power theft. This task force would operate under the guidance of the Secretary for Energy and Power Division, IGs, Commissioners, and Duty Commissioners at the grassroots level, he added. The minister underlined the need for reforms within the country's ten power distribution companies.



Additionally, he noted that five distribution companies were grappling with a Rs100 billion deficit, with no effective billing recovery in their specific areas. The minister revealed plan to draft an "Energy Theft Law" within a span of three weeks. Furthermore, it was highlighted

that regions including Peshawar, Hyderabad, Quetta, Sakhar, Tribal Areas, AJK, Mardan, and Shikarpur collectively exhibit a deficit of Rs 489 billion. Caretaker Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi clarified that no minister received complimentary electricity, and this privilege was unavailable to others as well. The minister further stressed that the Power Division would initiate departmental action to eliminate power theft once the inquiry report identified the accountable for the 'human and technical error.' He stated that the country's circular debt had accumulated to Rs 2536 billion by December 2022, with an additional Rs 343 billion added for this year. Additionally, Secretary, Langrial pointed out that line losses surged to Rs 589 billion.

## RDA removes encroachments

DNA

RAWALPINDI: Rawalpindi Development Authority (RDA) here on Wednesday launched an operation against encroachments and demolished sheds in the Gulraiz Housing Scheme. According to RDA spokesman, the Enforcement Squad of RDA on the directives of the Director General, Muhammad Saif Anwar Jappa conducted raids and took action in accordance with the law against the rules violators. He informed that the Squad while carrying out an operation against encroachments in the Gulraiz Housing Scheme, demolished sheds and illegal structures constructed in front of various shops. He said the Squad including Incharge/Assistant Director Building Control, Assistant Director Land Development, Building Inspectors and others took part in the operation. The DG had directed the Enforcement Squad to take strict action against encroachments without any discrimination, he said adding, the operation would continue and no one would be allowed to violate the rules.

## Dialogue stresses need for CoD

DNA

ISLAMABAD: AwazCDS-Pakistan, in collaboration with the Pakistan Federal Union of Journalists (PFUJ), organized a dialogue at the Committee Room of the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (HRCP) to discuss and promote democracy in the nation. The dialogue focused on the need for a new Charter of Democracy (CoD) to address the evolving political landscape and the challenges faced by Pakistan in upholding democratic principles. In his opening remarks, AwazCDS-Pakistan Chief Executive Zia-ur-Rehman highlighted the current poor political and human rights situation in Pakistan.—APP

## PRCS organizes ceremony to commemorate Defense Day

Chairman Pakistan Red Crescent Society, Sardar Shahid Ahmed Laghari, Extends Tribute to Martyrs and Stresses the Renewed Commitment to Our Homeland's Safety, Preservation, and Prosperity

MEHTAB PIRZADA

ISLAMABAD (6th September 2023) - Pakistan Red Crescent Society (PRCS) organized a remarkable ceremony at its National Headquarters on the occasion of Defense Day, dedicated to honoring the martyrs. In his inaugural address, Muhammad Abaidullah Khan, Secretary General of PRCS, underscored the historical importance of September 6th and drew attention to Chairman Sardar Shahid Ahmed Laghari's message. He said the day also signifies a day of reaffirming our collective commitment to working together for the se-

curity, protection, and prosperity of our nation. He emphasized the vision of Chairman Sardar Shahid Laghari, who believes in timely response and upholding the tradition of safeguarding our nation at all times. "Today, we are here to pay homage to these martyrs who sacrificed their lives to secure our future, our heroes are a source of immense pride for us", he added. As a leading humanitarian organization, PRCS has consistently delivered exemplary services, regardless of whether the times have been marked by war or peace, and continues to serve humanity with

distinction. The ceremony also included expressions of gratitude towards the martyrs' families. During the event, PRCS Treasurer, Arshad Muhammad, delivered a speech in which he shed light on PRCS's services and explored avenues for enhanced collaboration with the International Federation of Red Cross Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and Movement Partners. The ceremony featured a musical performance by junior members of Red Crescent Clubs, with participants wearing traditional attire

representing various cultures. PRCS also screened a documentary highlighting their efforts in rehabilitating prisoners, providing treatment to the wounded, and executing various relief activities. The event was attended by notable figures, including representatives from the International Federation of the Red Cross Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in Pakistan, Movement Partners including Turkish Red Crescent Society, the German Red Cross and Norwegian Red Cross, dedicated volunteers and PRCS officers.

## Kashmiris pays tribute to Pakistani martyrs of 1965 war

ISLAMABAD: The people of Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir have paid rich tributes to the Pakistani martyrs of the 1965 war on Pakistan Defence Day, today. While Pakistan is celebrating Defence Day, today, the people of occupied Jammu and Kashmir stand with the country to honor the sacrifices rendered by Pakistani soldiers and citizens in defending their motherland against India in 1965. On September 6 every year, Pakistanis remind the world that the Kashmir dispute is the unfinished agenda of the Pakistan Movement, Kashmir media service reported. The All Parties Hurriyat Conference leaders including Ghulam Muhammad Khan Sopori, Syed Bashir Andrabi, Khawaja Firdous, Abdul Ahad Parra, Yasmeen Raja, Farida Bahejni, Muhammad Yousuf Naqash, Saleem Zargar, Fayyaz Hussain Jafri, Sibte Shabbir Qummi, Molvi Musaab Nadvi, Junaid-ul-Islam and Muhammad Umar in their statements issued in Srinagar said that when India challenged the existence of Pakistan in 1965, the Pakistani armed forces and the entire nation stood like a leaden wall in front of India's aggression and thwarted its nefarious designs. They said India never accepted the creation of Pakistan and right from day one, it has been hatching conspiracies against its security. They prayed for the development and prosperity of Pakistan and said that a strong and prosperous Pakistan is the guarantor of the success of the Kashmir freedom movement. The APHC leaders said that India had illegally occupied the Muslim-majority state of Jammu and Kashmir in 1947 and since then has been denying the right to self-determination to Kashmiris and also killing them for demanding this right. They said that Pakistan is a great advocate of Kashmiris' right to self-determination. They said the Kashmir dispute is the basic cause of tension between Pakistan and India. They added that the relations between the two countries cannot become normal without settling this dispute in accordance with the UN resolutions. The APHC leaders said that Jammu and Kashmir is a natural part of Pakistan and its one part is under illegal occupation of India where the Kashmiri people have been struggling to free it from the Indian clutches since 1947. They said Kashmiris and Pakistanis share strong religious, historical, cultural and geographical bonds and no power on earth can stop Kashmir's genuine demand to become part of Pakistan. They maintained that the Kashmir movement is in fact the continuation of the Pakistan Movement as Pakistan will only be complete when the entire Jammu and Kashmir becomes its part.—DNA

## Police arrest three street criminals

DNA

RAWALPINDI: In an operation against criminal elements, Rawalpindi Police here on Wednesday arrested three street criminals and robbers and recovered Rs 15,000 cash, four costly iPhones, weapons and other items from their possession. According to a police spokesman, New Town police arrested three members of a gang including Atta ur Rehman, Samiullah and Muhammad Jameel, wanted in various cases. Police recovered Rs 15,000 cash, four costly iPhones, weapons and other items from their possession. Superintendent of Police, Rawal Faisal Saleem appreciated the police team and directed them to accelerate operations against street criminals and other lawbreakers.

## FDI increases by 17.3pc in August

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in the country during first month of current financial year (2023-24) witnessed about 17.3 percent growth as compared to the investment of the corresponding month of last year. By the month of July 2023, the FDI reached \$87.7 million against the investment of \$ 74.8 million in same period of the last year, which was up by 17.3 percent, according to the 'Monthly Economic Update & Outlook August 2023', said in the report released by the Ministry of Finance and Revenue on Wednesday. The FDI received from China during the period under review was recorded at \$18.0 million, Hong Kong \$16.9 million and FDI received from Netherlands at \$12.1 million and Switzerland \$10.1 million, it added.—APP

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## Briefs

## ANF seizes 98 kg drugs in seven operations

RAWALPINDI: The Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF), while conducting seven operations across the country, arrested six accused, and managed to recover 98 kg drugs said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Wednesday. He informed that in an operation, 18 kg hashish was recovered from the secret cavities of a vehicle intercepted near the Motorway Toll Plaza Islamabad. A resident of Peshawar was arrested during the operation. In another operation, 600 grams of weed were recovered from a parcel sent from Canada at a courier office in Karachi. Two accused residents of Karachi who received the parcel were arrested. In the third operation, 8.4 kg opium and 27.6 kg hashish were recovered from a vehicle stopped near Patuki Toll Plaza, Multan. During the operation, two accused residents of Kasur were arrested. In the fourth operation, 60 heroin-filled capsules were recovered from the possession of a passenger arrested at Peshawar International Airport. The accused, a resident of Mardan, was leaving for Jeddah by flight number ER-851. In the fifth operation, 25 kg of hashish concealed for smuggling in an uninhabited area near Panjgur was recovered. A total of 18 kg of hashish was recovered during two operations conducted in the Zakhkhal area of Khyber. Cases under the Anti-Narcotics Act have been registered against the arrested accused while further investigations are under process.—APP

## Defence Day: Zardari pays tribute to Sept 6 heroes

ISLAMABAD: President Pakistan Peoples Party Parliamentarians (PPPP) Asif Ali Zardari while paying tribute to all the heroes of September 6 on Wednesday said the whole nation stood united and was always ready to defend every inch of the motherland. In a message on Defense Day issued by the party secretariat, he said that Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto ensured the defense of the country by giving nuclear programme, while Shaheed Benazir Bhutto strengthened the defense of the homeland by giving missile technology. "Today, no enemy can even think about attacking our country because of the strong defense system, adherence to the constitution and an empowered parliament are guarantees to the country's security," he added. Asif Zardari stressed the need to purge "The beautiful valleys of the country" of anti-state and terrorist elements.—APP

## Crackdown on LPG cylinder outlet violators

ISLAMABAD: In a crackdown on LPG cylinder outlet violators, Assistant Commissioner Rural sealed a shop and arrested the owner for selling cylinders at inflated prices. The action was taken on the directions of Deputy Commissioner Islamabad, Irfan Nawaz Memon, an ICT spokesman said on Wednesday. The Assistant Commissioner Rural visited various areas of the Rural Sub-Division and inspected the LPG cylinder outlets. He found that many outlets were selling cylinders at prices higher than the government-set rates. He also found that some outlets were involved in the illegal canning of LPG cylinders. The Assistant Commissioner Rural ordered the sealing of the shop that was selling cylinders at inflated prices. The owner of the shop was arrested and transferred to the police station. The Assistant Commissioner Rural also issued warnings to other violators to comply with the government rates or face legal action. The crackdown by the Assistant Commissioner Rural has sent a strong message to LPG cylinder outlet owners that they will not be tolerated if they violate the law. The action is also likely to help prevent illegal canning of LPG cylinders, which is a safety hazard.—DNA



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar chairs a briefing on Information Technology and Telecom Sector.—DNA

## Training program on MRV system kicked off

The purpose of training was to aware participants about pressing issues related to greenhouse gases, their adverse impact on the environment, and the crucial role MRV plays in combating climate change

FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD: A 4-day training program on strengthening the National Greenhouse Gas Inventory Management and Measurement, Reporting, and Verification (MRV) system kicked off, here the other day. Global Climate-Change Impact Studies Centre (GCISC), Ministry of Climate Change, and Environmental Coordination under the Third National Communication on Climate Change Project are organizing the training. More than 50 participants from all four provinces are attending

the training. The purpose of the training was to aware the participants about the pressing issues related to greenhouse gases, their adverse impact on the environment, and the crucial role MRV plays in combating climate change. Muhammad Arif Goheer, Head Agriculture & Coordination GCISC, and National Greenhouse Gas Inventory Coordinator greeted the participants and informed them that to tackle climate change and control greenhouse gas emissions the inventory compilation under the globally accepted standardized principles and guidelines was of utmost essential. "Pakistan has experienced a rise in average

temperatures, higher than the global average, leading to more frequent heatwaves, prolonged droughts, and erratic rainfall patterns," he added. "The concentration of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere has reached 423 parts per million in 2023, the highest ever in at least 2 million years," the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) reported. While introducing the Measurement, Reporting, and Verification (MRV), Goheer said, "It is a vital component in addressing the challenge of greenhouse gas emissions." "MRV involves quantifying emissions, monitor-

ing progress, and verifying the effectiveness of mitigation actions," he informed. "Accurate MRV systems are essential to tracking progress toward international climate commitments, such as the Paris Agreement, and for making informed policy decisions." "Pakistan is committed to complying with the obligations towards UNFCCC and Paris Agreement," Goheer reiterated. "We are very keen to find ways in which our level of ambition can be enhanced without compromising the objectives of avoiding human suffering by climate change and sustainable de-

velopment." "I believe that the challenges of climate change can only be addressed if the institutions/countries work together," he said. "We can achieve more with better research, more innovation, more entrepreneurship, and more support," Goheer added. Director General (DG) of Climate Change in Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination (MOCC) Asif Sahibzada, Head of Climate Change in GIZ, Baptiste Chatre, Advisor COMSTEC Syed Javed Khurshid, and Head of Climate Mitigation CITEPA in France Julien Vincent also spoke on the occasion.

## President pays tribute to martyrs, Ghazis of Pakistan armed forces

DNA

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi on Wednesday paying tribute to the martyrs and Ghazis of Pakistan armed forces, said the 1965 War stood out in the history as a symbol of unwavering national resolve, preparedness, professionalism, patriotism and sacrifice. In his message in connection with the Defence and Martyrs Day, the president said the sons of soil fearlessly fought against the enemy and wrote a shining chapter in history. "We observe 6th of September as Defence & Martyrs Day to pay tribute to our martyrs and their families who sacrificed their lives for the motherland. On this day, 58 years ago, our Armed Forces and the entire Pakistani nation displayed extraordinary courage and indomitable spirit, and thwarted the evil designs of the enemy," he added. President Alvi saluted the martyrs who laid down their lives for the homeland, and also honour

their families for setting examples of sacrificing their loved ones for country's defence. "Our Ghazis deserve respect for giving a tit-for-tat response to enemy's attacks on Lahore, Sialkot and other sectors. Our soldiers and the nation fought with passion in 1965 and they continue to display the same courage, commitment and professional excellence in all testing times." He said they had displayed the same spirit during the two-decade-long war against terrorism and extremism. "Our successes in this asymmetrical war are testimony to our Armed Forces' capacity to evolve into a unique force having the ability to match the modern-day combat requirements." The president reiterated Pakistan's commitment to peace and its policy of peaceful coexistence. "We are aware of our national as well as international obligations and are playing our part towards world peace under the banner of the United Nations. Our own region is awaiting the resolution

of the longstanding Jammu and Kashmir dispute, which needs international community's immediate attention," he added. He highlighted that this dispute had to be resolved as per the UN Security Council Resolutions for ensuring peace, security, and development in the region. The president also recalled the sacrifices of Kashmiri people, women and children, which they had rendered during the decades-long struggle for their right to self-determination. Pakistan will continue to extend its moral and diplomatic support to the Kashmiri people's just struggle for their right to choose their own destiny, he remarked. He said this day also called for keeping always first the sovereignty of state and integrity and honour of the motherland. "Pakistan is the centre of our hopes. On this Defence & Martyrs Day, we continue to honour and respect the sons and daughters of soil, who never hesitate in giving their own life for the defence of motherland, its development and prosperity."

## Minister for remembering sacrifices rendered by heroes

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Education and Professional Training Madad Ali Sindi on Wednesday emphasized the importance of remembering sacrifices rendered by all heroes to defend frontiers of the motherland on September 6. Addressing an event at Islamabad Model College for Girls to pay tributes to heroes of Defense Day he said, "History reminds us of those individuals who laid down their lives for our homeland. They were heroes then, and they remain heroes today and tomorrow." The event was marked by the spirited participation of female students, who contributed to the atmosphere with patriotic songs. The minister praised the youth for their deep sense of patriotism and commitment to both the country and its values, saying, "Our young generation is conscious and deeply connected to our nation and faith." Reflecting on the significance of September 6, he shared his memories of the unparalleled passion he witnessed, stating, "I vividly recall the unparalleled enthusiasm on this day. People were ready to give their lives for the nation. Today, people are still prepared to make such sacrifices." The minister also highlighted the courage of the martyrs, noting that even the adversaries were troubled by the bravery of Pakistan's defenders. Expressing his satisfaction with the state of education at the college, he said, "I am pleased to see the spirit of freedom alive in this college. We have come a long way from the past, and we must remember the individuals who contributed to Pakistan's freedom."—APP

## Pakistani companies rosy in Chinese market

DNA

BEIJING: As 2023 marks the 10th anniversary of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), Pakistani Ambassador to China Moin ul Haque noted that the Government of Pakistan is stepping up to facilitate the exchanges and cooperation between both countries. According to China Economic Net (CEN), this year, at the ongoing 2023 China International Fair for Trade in Services (2023 CIFTIS) - one of the world's largest and most comprehensive fairs for trade in services - companies from Pakistan's secondary and tertiary industries such



as finance, logistics, aviation and artificial intelligence attracted many visitors. The 2023 CIFTIS witnessed the flourishing business of these Pakistani merchants. Many of them attended exhibitions in China for the first time, showcasing Pakistan's service industry to visitors from

products they selected were of good quality and at fair prices. Coupled with the help of boosting e-commerce in China, they are confident about the future of these Made-in-Pakistan products in China. National Logistics Corporation (NLC), one of Pakistan's leading logistics companies, attended the fair for the first time and hoped to explore more in the Chinese market. In a significant development towards boosting bilateral trade and the operationalization of CPEC, the company achieved another milestone by starting regular cargo service from Islamabad and Karachi to Kashgar and Shanghai for export as well as import shipments in June.

## Solarization in full swing in Gwadar

ISLAMABAD: Motivated by the solar donation drive launched by China in Gwadar in phases over the last few years that facilitates more than 4,000 locals and helps mitigate their power outage woes, the solarization of Gwadar is gaining momentum.

In the "Dashti market" and "Airport Road market", two main electronic markets in Gwadar, there used to be a considerable rush of customers battered by long-hour power breakdowns since the onset of the sweltering season of summer. Three years back, these markets did not have solar panels, batteries, or operating systems, according to Gwadar Pro. After China unveiled the initiative of distributing solar systems among the most deserving groups in Gwadar that turned their electricity nightmares into pleasant life, awareness started gripping the people of Gwadar with insights that solar system is a key solution to power outages.

According to an official of the Gwadar Chamber of Commerce and Industry, sales of solar panels and systems are booming in Gwadar as residential and commercial buildings are being solarized. Wasim Baloch, a trader of Dashti Electronic market, told Gwadar Pro that among his customers, 40 percent are interested in buying solar systems for homes or outlets. When Noor Muhammad, a customer at Airport Road Market, was asked about his reason for purchasing solar sets, he said that perpetual power failure has become a pain in the neck. Going solar is the sole solution for him to get rid of the load-shedding menace, he added.—APP

## NPO Productivity drive to beneficial for industrial productivity

ISLAMABAD: Chief Executive Officer of National Productivity Organization (NPO) Muhammad Alamgir Chaudhry on Wednesday said the NPO, Productivity Enhancement drive will prove beneficial for industrial productivity in the country. It is very significant to implement the productivity drive for the industrial revolution in Pakistan, which will increase economic competitiveness in the country, Chief Executive Officer, Muhammad Alamgir Chaudhry said in an interview with APP here. He said the Ministry of Industries and Production has launched a development project to improve the productivity of the industrial, manufacturing, services and education sectors through the assistance of the National Productivity Organization (NPO). He said that more than ten thousand individuals including students of schools and technical institutes had so far been educated to give awareness about the concept of productivity through various sessions all over Pakistan.—APP

## Training by USAID-ERDA sparks technological innovations in KP

PESHAWAR: USAID's Economic Recovery and Development Activity concluded training sessions for 77 field staff members on Wednesday, focusing on precision agriculture technologies. The training sessions were conducted in Peshawar, Kohat, Dera Ismail Khan, Swat, and Abbottabad, equipping agriculture extension department staff and farmers with hands-on skills in drone assembly, sprayer usage, and drone operation. Precision agriculture has transformed farming practices, enhancing productivity and sustainability through technology like drones. By imparting such practical skills, USAID modernizes and empowers the agriculture sector in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) and its Newly Merged Districts (NMDs). Jan Muhammad, Director General Agriculture Extension KP, lauded the initiative: "This training equips our field staff with the tools.—APP

## E-gates to equip New Gwadar International Airport

GWADAR: New Gwadar International Airport (NGIA) is soon to be equipped with Electronic Gates (E-gates) in line with international high-tech standards for the facilitation of passengers. This is part of the project of Pakistan Civil Aviation Authority (PCAA) to make installation of e-gates across Pakistan in phases. Other airports that will have e-gates include Islamabad, Allama Iqbal, and Jinnah International Airport. This project will be completed under the supervision of the Aviation Secretary and the Director-General of the Civil Aviation Authority (DG-CAA). Sources indicate that suggestions have also been obtained from different national institutions including the National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA) and Federal Investigation Agency (FIA), etc. Meanwhile, tenders will be sought for the E-gate project, according to a report published by Gwadar Pro on Wednesday. The installation of E-gates will eliminate the hassle for travelers as they don't need to wait in queue to get boarding pass.—APP

## NDMA consultants JICA team visits PDMA KP

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) Consultants from the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) team held a meeting with the Director General (DG) of the Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Janat Gul Afridi, here Wednesday. This meeting's objectives were to gather input and launch the creation of the National Disaster Management Plan-II (NDMP-II), which will cover the years 2024-2029. The National Disaster Management Plan-I (NDMP-I) was implemented from 2012-2024, and during the meeting, the Consultant team received a thorough update on the key milestones reached in DRM at the province level. This insightful summary emphasized the developments in catastrophe preparedness and response throughout the previous years. Moreover, the work being done so far by the Relief Department and PDMA to create a Provincial Disaster Management Policy and Plan is significant. These programmes are set up to work closely together with the NDMP-II, ensuring a seamless and coordinated approach to disaster management at both the national and provincial levels. The DG PDMA expressed gratitude for the efforts made in response to the information and initiatives offered and reaffirmed the commitment to continue working together in the future. The impending NDMP-II is anticipated to play a crucial role in protecting communities from natural and man-made catastrophes. As a result of the partnership between NDMA Consultants and PDMA, disaster resilience and management capacities in the region have been significantly improved. The creation of the NDMP-II and ongoing efforts at the province level demonstrate the commitment of stakeholders to creating a country that is more resilient and prepared for disasters, aiming to lessen the impact of disasters on lives and property.

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Phone: 051-2266165 / 051-2261960

Off 11: Awan Plaza, Block 18-A, G-8 Markaz Islamabad

## Immunity law better defends nation's interest

The legislative work of a country should always meet its developmental and diplomatic demands. The drafting and passing of the Law on Foreign State Immunity at a session of the National People's Congress Standing Committee – after more than three years of preparation during which public opinions were widely solicited – is one such case. The reason the country's top legislature passed the law last week was the nefarious efforts of certain entities in the United States three years ago to smear China and its government by filing lawsuits against China in US courts in 2020 for "mishandling" the COVID-19 pandemic and seek legal redress. That their action violated the universally accepted legal principle of sovereign immunity, which basically means a national government or its agencies cannot be sued in the courts of another country, hardly made any difference to the US administration. Those US entities hoped the courts would rule in their favor based on the interpretation of "exceptional circumstances", as stated in the US sovereign immunity law, holding China legally accountable for the "huge human and economic losses". The artifice was possible because the US has adopted the principle of "restrictive immunity", which allows lawsuits to be filed against a foreign government in "exceptional circumstances". The legal drama was aimed at humiliating China and shifting the blame for their own government's abject failure to respond to the pandemic and provide medical care to the American people – the US accounted for the highest numbers of COVID-19 infections and deaths. Yet the legal sham highlighted the need for enacting China's own immunity law that would suit the changing international situation and help better protect the country's sovereignty and interests. The Law on Foreign State Immunity, to take effect on Jan 1, 2024, has 23 provisions and stipulates that China, like many other countries, will follow the principle of restrictive immunity instead of absolute sovereign immunity. More important, the principle of reciprocity in state immunity has been adopted, which means when a foreign country abolishes, restricts or downgrades the sovereign immunity it has granted China, China can take necessary countermeasures in accordance with the principle of reciprocity. The days when the Chinese government and its agencies were made a scapegoat to stand trial only as defendants in foreign courts without any legal weapon to fight back are history. While the law marks an end to China's previous practice of granting "absolute sovereign immunity" to foreign states, foreign states and their property in China will continue to enjoy normal sovereign immunity as before.



## US urged: transform South China Sea

The United States conducted a joint naval sail with the Philippines in the South China Sea. An obvious provocative move considering the tensions between China and the Philippines over the Ren'ai Reef dispute. A media report citing the Armed Forces of the Philippines' Western Command said it was the first time Manila and Washington have carried out a joint sail in the waters west of Palawan island. Perhaps the joint sail, apart from underscoring the Philippines' military alliance with the US, was also meant to assert its baseless claims over the disputed waters. The reckless act to hype the maritime dispute coincides with this week's series of meetings in Jakarta, Indonesia, with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations taking center stage. The US, which has for years used the maritime disputes in the South China Sea to interfere in regional affairs, apparently intends to heighten tensions again so it can fish in troubled waters to fulfill its strategic goals. The farce the US staged with the Philippines is yet another proof of Washington posing the biggest threat to peace and stability in the South China Sea. To cater to its own strategic needs and maintain its global hegemony, the US is turning the sea into a playground for major power competition, totally disregarding the regional countries' quest for peace, stability and development. In order to address issues of common concern, ASEAN has tried to play down geopolitics in the meetings in Jakarta. Many of the bloc's members have either refused or are reluctant to take sides in the China-US disputes, because they know that doing so would sow the seeds of division in the region. China and ASEAN are in the middle of negotiations to finalize a Code of Conduct for the South China Sea, which is aimed at maintaining lasting peace and stability in the waters. And the two sides have the wisdom and capacity to resolve their maritime differences and disputes. The South China Sea is one of the world's busiest waterways with some 100,000 merchant vessels sailing through its waters every year. Any disturbance in the waters will disrupt the free and smooth flow of goods and global supply chains, slowing down the region's development. Hence, instead of indulging in selfish calculations and stirring up trouble in the South China Sea, the US should play a constructive role in the region, because peace and stability serves its own interest too. It should heed the call of the countries in the region and respect their efforts to turn the South China Sea into a sea of peace, friendship and cooperation.

## It's time for new beginnings?

Rustam Shah Mohmand

The landing of Vikram happened just a few days after a Russian attempt to land on the south pole ended in failure. In 2019, Indian spacecraft Chandrayaan -2 had failed to land successfully. Since then, pioneering efforts were underway to achieve the feat of the world's now-most-populous country and establishing its credentials on the exploration of outer space. These efforts were finally crowned with a remarkable success as no other country has so far been able to send any mission to the south pole. Not only for the people of India, but for all South Asians, this is a moment to rejoice at a monumental achievement.

India made history last month as its Chandrayaan-3 Vikram landed on the south pole of the moon. There were celebrations all over the country as people watched history being made. The lunar landing was a spectacular breakthrough in space exploration and will undoubtedly open more avenues and opportunities for more such missions in the future.

The landing of Vikram happened just a few days after a Russian attempt to land on the south pole ended in failure. In 2019, Indian spacecraft Chandrayaan -2 had failed to land successfully. Since then, pioneering efforts were underway to achieve the feat of the world's now-most-populous country and establishing its credentials on the exploration of outer space. These efforts were finally crowned with a remarkable success as no other country has so far been able to send any mission to the south pole. Not only for the people of India, but for all South Asians, this is a moment to rejoice at a monumental achievement. Indian scientists deserve to be congratulated. There is enormous significance of the success of this space mission. The south pole's shadowed craters contain water ice that would support a future base on the moon, allowing astronauts and scientists to work there for extended periods of time. The moon rover has begun the search for water and is sending data

on the composition of the soil. No other country has explored the rugged south pole and India is only the fourth country after the US, Russia and China to land its spacecraft on the moon.

Let the success of the space mission mark a new beginning for India, where it is paramount to safeguard its secular foundations and governance systems. Surprisingly, the Chandrayaan-3 project only cost \$75 million. It is expected to remain functional for two weeks, running a series of experiments including an analysis of the mineral composition of lunar soil. India's space exploration program's next objective is to launch a mission in September to study the sun. A human space flight is also planned. No date has yet been announced but it is expected to be launched sometime in 2024. The success of our neighbor's moon landing has been possible because of continuity of governance, an emphasis on setting good priorities, consistent focus on research and availability of resources. Above all it is a testimony to India's institutions and an unwavering commitment, however nuanced, to put the country on the right trajectory to accomplish feats that enhance India's prestige in the world. It's safe to say that goal has been achieved with the lunar landing. Now, riding the crest of a wave of worldwide popularity and high esteem, India is looking forward to

chairing the G-20 meeting next month. It could be the perfect time for New Delhi to reflect on its many successes in different fields and to reappraise its policy on minorities in the country. A nuclear power and the most populous country in the world with huge credentials like uninterrupted democracy and the rule of law, must not allow itself to be derailed by communal disharmony that affects the lives of millions of people. It is time for India to unite as a country, and that includes addressing the deep-seated issues of unrest and unlawful oppression in Kashmir. Let the success of the space mission mark a new beginning for India, where it is paramount to safeguard its secular foundations and governance systems. It is precisely these foundations that have ensured India's huge success in governance, socio-economic emancipation of its people and above all, its unity in diversity – which has faltered greatly in recent times. Perhaps now, with the eyes of the entire world on it for good reason, it is time to build on its principles and continue its advances in the fields of poverty reduction and inter-faith harmony. – Rustam Shah Mohmand is a specialist of Afghanistan and Central Asian Affairs. He has served as Pakistan's ambassador to Afghanistan and also held position of Chief Commissioner Refugees for a decade.

## Lessons for troubled economies

Dr. Vaqar Ahmed

Argentina has experienced high price inflation due to a combination of political mismanagement and economic instability. Frequent changes in government policies, including currency controls and excessive public spending, have eroded investor confidence and led to a depreciating currency. This, coupled with high levels of public debt and fiscal deficits, has fuelled inflationary pressures. Turkey's inflation woes can be attributed to a mix of factors, including political interference in monetary policy, a history of populist policies, and external pressures such as currency depreciation and rising global commodity prices

As the caretaker government seeks short-term solutions to economic challenges, Pakistan's inflation is rapidly approaching the stubbornly high levels seen in Argentina, Lebanon, and Turkey. The country-level factors that have contributed to the persistent rise in prices in all these economies can be broadly categorized into political, economic, and external factors. Argentina has experienced high price inflation due to a combination of political mismanagement and economic instability. Frequent changes in government policies, including currency controls and excessive public spending, have eroded investor confidence and led to a depreciating currency. This, coupled with high levels of public debt and fiscal deficits, has fuelled inflationary pressures. Turkey's inflation woes can be attributed to a mix of factors, including political interference in monetary policy, a history of populist policies, and external pressures such as currency depreciation and rising global commodity prices. The central bank's inability to maintain its independence and adopt tight monetary policies has contributed to persistent inflationary pressures. Lebanon's high price inflation can be traced back to its deep economic and political crisis. The country's political instability, coupled with a severe financial collapse and a reliance on imports, has led to a sharp depreciation of the Lebanese pound. The resulting scarcity of foreign exchange, coupled with a lack of confidence in the banking sector, has contributed to skyrocketing prices and hyperinflation. In Pakistan too, inflation has been driven by a combination of domestic and external fac-

tors. Besides the ongoing political uncertainty, the country faces structural issues like energy shortages and food price volatility, which have been exacerbated by inconsistent policies, growing public spending, and governance challenges. Additionally, external factors such as rising global oil and commodity prices often put a further strain on the economy, contributing to high inflation. The outcome of the above-mentioned is also similar across these countries. High inflation is having a significant impact on the lives of ordinary people, making it more difficult to afford basic necessities such as food, shelter, and transportation. It is also putting a strain on businesses and governments, making it difficult to plan for the future. Mob activity on the streets has become a common occurrence, with public offices being set ablaze in broad daylight, and street crime running rampant. "Regional integration holds the key to bringing down food prices." Foreign advice is now pouring in for these countries. The lenders supporting these massively debt-ridden economies are pointing towards evidence and more specifically four main elements which have brought back several countries from the brink of default. Political stability will revive local and foreign investor's interest. It could prevent human and capital flight. When businesses know that the government is stable and there is a low risk of political violence, they are more likely to invest in the country. With supply-side expansion, prices stabilize in the medium-term. Strong institutions can reduce corruption. When there is an independent judiciary and a transparent public sector, it is more difficult for corrupt officials to steal from businesses and citizens.

By combating corruption, governments can streamline public spending, foster a fairer and more competitive business environment, and ultimately, mitigate the factors that contribute to price inflation. The rule of law can protect property rights. When property rights are protected, businesses are more likely to invest and innovate, knowing that their investments will be secure. Regional integration holds the key to bringing down food prices. When countries within a region trade more freely with each other, barriers to trade such as tariffs and non-tariff barriers are reduced or eliminated, enabling businesses to access larger markets and a wider variety of goods and services. Moreover, as countries specialize in producing goods, the allocation of resources becomes more efficient, reducing supply-side inefficiencies that can drive up prices. To conclude, almost all the above-mentioned countries have recently replaced their economy managers. All the new appointees have stated that they had no idea how severe the economic crisis was. The learning curve is steep, and everyone must stick to the IMF-agreed path to instil confidence in bilateral and multilateral development partners. The bigger question is whether the new economy managers in these countries are willing to take on the elites. Are the elites in these countries prepared to bear the costs of adjustment? – Dr. Vaqar Ahmed is joint executive director at the Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI). He has served as an adviser to the UN Development Programme (UNDP) and has undertaken assignments with the Asian Development Bank, the World Bank, and the Finance, Planning, and Commerce Ministries in Pakistan.

## Briefs

## Nation stands with forces to...

FROM PAGE 01  
"Our martyrs who embraced shahadat for the sake of their people and the country can never be forgotten and will always remain in our hearts," he said, as he highlighted the importance given to martyrs in the Holy Quran. 1965 war symbol of unwavering national resolve, says Alvi. Meanwhile, President Dr Arif Alvi said that Defence Day was observed to pay tribute to those who had sacrificed their lives for the country. "On this day, 58 years ago, our armed forces and the entire Pakistani nation displayed extraordinary courage and indomitable spirit, and thwarted the evil designs of the enemy. The 1965 war stands out in our history as a symbol of unwavering national resolve, preparedness, professionalism, patriotism and sacrifice," he said in his message.

## 'Strong economy...

FROM PAGE 01  
"It is the commitment of every officer and soldier of the Pakistan Army to put the defense of the country before his life." The army chief said the sacrifices of the martyrs and the achievements of ghazis are great examples for the nation. COAS Asim Munir said the courage with which the armed forces fought against terrorism was unprecedented.

## PDM govt spent...

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spent by the 13 parties coalition in a 16-month tenure. It was revealed that Rs 10 billion was spent on media advertisement in the PDM coalition government tenure. The secretary told the senate committee that Rs 9.6 billion was spent on the advertisement. The previous government released Rs 3.50 billion in funds for print media, Rs 4.79 billion was spent on electronic media advertisement and Rs 1.23 billion on digital media advertisements. Furthermore, the senate committee summoned the details of advertisement rates for all channels. On April 14, the federal government approved the release of funds for parliamentarians' schemes. The PDM coalition government spent Rs 50 billion on parliamentary schemes till March 2023. The funds for the parliamentary schemes were approved and Rs 90 billion was allocated for these schemes in the fiscal year 2022-23.

## Embassy denies...

FROM PAGE 01  
"I'm not aware," said US State Department Principal Deputy Spokesperson Vedant Patel. "This obviously would be - if there were to any - be any issues that arise in this area, certainly would be something for Pakistani consular officials to speak to and not anything as it relates to the State Department, so we'll just leave it at that." Later, a spokesperson for the embassy said that Pakistani-Americans, and other overseas Pakistanis, are most welcome to visit their motherland. The official added that the embassy was providing every possible consular assistance, including visas, to overseas Pakistanis.

## Four soldiers embrace...

FROM PAGE 01  
repulsed the attacks inflicting heavy casualties to the terrorists. During the fire exchange, twelve terrorists were sent to hell, while a large number has been critically injured. However, during the intense exchange of fire, four brave soldiers, having fought gallantly, embraced Shahadat. Sanitization of the area is being carried out to eliminate any other terrorists found in the area. Security forces of Pakistan are determined to eliminate the menace of terrorism and such sacrifices of our soldiers further strengthen our resolve. The brave people of Chitral also stand firmly with the security forces in not allowing the terrorists to ruin the peace of area.

# Super 4 Clash

## Asia Cup: Pakistan clinched Bangladesh by seven wickets

Pakistan struggled a bit during the start of their innings when Fakhar Zaman was removed by Shoriful Islam for 20 runs

OUR CORRESPONDENT

LAHORE: Pakistan cruised to victory against Bangladesh in Super 4 clash of Asia Cup 2023 by chasing down the meagre 194-run target set by the opponents at the Gaddafi Stadium, Lahore. The stadium was a house full of spectators who were there to cheer up the national squad in their last match on the home ground as Men in Green played the last match of the Pakistan leg of the Asian tournament. Pakistan lost three wickets during their comfortable run-chase, with opener Imam-ul-Haq being the top scorer for the winning team with his 78 off 84 which included nine boundaries. He was followed by Mohammad Rizwan



who posted 63 for his side. Pakistan struggled a bit during the start of their innings when Fakhar Zaman was removed by Shoriful Islam for 20 runs. After Zaman's wicket, skipper Babar Azam was bowled by Taskin Ahmed's low-bounced delivery. Pakistan were 74-2 when Rizwan

came to bat and built a much-needed 85-run partnership with Imam and guided Pakistan to victory. Pakistan will now play arch-rivals India in their next Super Four match in Colombo on September 10 (Sunday). Earlier in the first inning, Bangladesh were all-out for 193 runs thanks to an exceptional

display by the Pakistani pacers. The home side was on top since the start of the match as they took their first wicket on the seventh ball of the match. After Shaheen Afridi bowled a maiden over, Naseem Shah removed Mehidy Hasan Miraz - who scored an important hundred in the match

against Afghanistan - on his first ball of the innings and gave the hosts an early breakthrough. The wickets continued to fall for the Bengal Tigers and soon they were 47/4 in just 9.1 overs. After that, the experienced duo of Mushfiqur Rahim and Shakib Al Hasan built a 100-run partnership and took their side to a decent score. Hasan was removed by Faheem Ashraf for 53 runs. Rahim too was soon removed by Haris Rauf for 64. Just after Rahim's dismissal, Rauf removed Taskin Ahmed on the very next ball. The last two wickets for Pakistan were taken by Naseem. Pakistan and India qualified from Group A, meanwhile, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka booked place in the Asia Cup Super 4 from Group B. **Lineups:** Pakistan: Fakhar Zaman, Imam-ul-Haq, Babar Azam (c), Mohammad Rizwan (wk), Agha Salman, Iftikhar Ahmed, Shadab Khan, Faheem Ashraf, Shaheen Afridi, Naseem Shah, Haris Rauf. **Bangladesh:** Mohammad Naim, Mehidy Hasan Miraz, Litton Das, Towhid Hridoy, Shakib Al Hasan (c), Mushfiqur Rahim (wk), Shamim Hossain, Afif Hossain, Taskin Ahmed, Shoriful Islam, Hasan Mahmud.

## US Open: Novak Djokovic advances to semifinals



DNA

NEW YORK: Novak Djokovic showcased his mettle as he stormed into the US Open semifinals with a decisive victory over Taylor Fritz, securing a 6-1, 6-4, 6-4 triumph. Djokovic's relentless pursuit of a historic 24th Grand Slam title remained firmly on track, and he now stands on the brink of matching Margaret

Court's illustrious record. With temperatures soaring close to 100 degrees Fahrenheit (38 degrees Celsius), Djokovic remained composed and clinical, maintaining his impeccable record against American opponents at the US Open, which now stands at a perfect 12-0. Fritz, despite his commendable journey, was unable to halt Djokovic's charge. The American had his chances but struggled

to convert, managing to capitalize on only two of 12 break opportunities while committing 51 unforced errors, almost twice as many as his opponent's 26. Djokovic's victory earned him a record 47th Grand Slam semifinal appearance, surpassing Roger Federer. He now awaits the outcome of the all-American clash between Frances Tiafoe and Ben Shelton, both vying for a spot in Sunday's final.

Reflecting on his performance, Djokovic acknowledged the enthusiastic support from the crowd, stating, "I thrive on that energy and try to use it as fuel." He also expressed his eagerness for the upcoming challenges, appreciating every opportunity at this stage of his career. On the women's side, 19-year-old Coco Gauff continued her remarkable journey by defeating Jelena Ostapenko with an impressive score of 6-0, 6-2. Gauff's victory makes her the youngest American to reach the U.S. Open semifinals since Serena Williams accomplished the feat in 2001. Her incredible form since Wimbledon has positioned her as a strong contender for the title. Although the tournament's scheduling drew criticism from Ostapenko, who had a quick turnaround after defeating world No. 1 Iga Swiatek, the action at the US Open remains as intense and unpredictable as ever. As Djokovic and Gauff move forward in their quests for glory, tennis fans can look forward to more thrilling matches and exciting moments at the 2023 US Open.

## Rauf becomes joint-third fastest to 50 ODI wickets

LAHORE: Fast bowler Haris Rauf became the joint-third fastest Pakistani bowler to pick 50 ODI wickets today during the ongoing match against Bangladesh in the Super Four Stage of Asia Cup 2023. Haris Rauf achieved this feat in his 27th ODI match, equalling legendary fast bowler Waqar Younis's record. He got his 50th wicket when Bangladesh's opening batter attempted a pull shot but the ball ballooned up with a top edge and landed in the hands of the bowler. Haris Rauf also holds the record for the highest strike rate in ODI by a Pakistani bowler. Meanwhile, the record for the fastest to take 50 ODI wickets for Pakistan belongs to Hasan Ali, who reached the milestone in 24 matches, followed by Shaheen Afridi who achieved it in 25 matches. Haris Rauf helped Pakistan book Bangladesh for a meagre 193 inside 40 overs. He ended the innings with impressive bowling figures of 4-19 in six overs, including the wicket of Bangladesh's top scorer Mushfiqur Rahim. Bangladesh had a dismal start to their innings in the first Asia Cup 2023 Super 4s fixture as they were reduced to 47/4 inside the first powerplay as the Pakistan pace trio ran through their top order. Following the slump, captain Shakib Al Hasan and Mushfiqur Rahim launched an astonishing recovery as they put together a brilliant 100-run partnership with the former bringing up his half-century. The pair appeared to have settled down and was looking to take the game away from Pakistan before Faheem Ashraf struck in the 30th over. Following Shakib's dismissal, Mushfiqur Rahim was joined at the crease by Shamim Hossain and the pair could add 27 runs for the sixth wicket before Pakistan's trump card Iftikhar Ahmed got rid of the latter. Haris Rauf then further dented Bangladesh's march with twin strikes in the 38th over which included the prized scalp of wicketkeeper batter Mushfiqur. Mushfiqur Rahim top-scored for Bangladesh with 64 in 87 balls, laced up with five boundaries. Haris's twin strikes forced Bangladesh to slip to 190/8 before Naseem Shah emulated the feat in the next over by removing Afif Hossain and Shoriful Islam to wrap up the visitors' innings. - DNA

## Men and Women Badminton continue

PESHAWAR: Men and Women Badminton Trials under Prime Minister's Youth Talent Hunt Program continued in Mardan and Swat under the aegis of the University of Swabi (UoS) and Kohat University of Science and Technology (KUST) wherein large number of women and men players turned up. Talking to APP, former international athlete and gold medalist of the South Asian Games in Javelin throw and Director Sports University of Swat Itaf Hussain Shah said that they held Men trials at the international standard indoor hall of the Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education (BISE) Mardan wherein 112 Men players turned for the badminton trials. Itaf Hussain Shah disclosed that University of Swat is holding Men Badminton trials while KUST is holding the Women Badminton trials in all five regions including Mardan, Swat, Bannu, Peshawar, Hazara and Dera Ismail Khan in different dates given by the Directorate General Sports Higher Education Commission, Islamabad. He said that the Vice Chancellor UoS Prof. Dr. Nasir Jamal also extended valuable support to him to facilitate the players participating in the trials. He said in the first phase they would conduct the open trials in all the five regions across Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and players from 15-year-old to 25-year-old are eligible to take part. He said that all arrangements had been made well in time and hopefully good talented players would come up to represent Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in the National League soon after the provincial league. - DNA



ISLAMABAD: Australian High Commissioner to Pakistan, Neil Hawkins called on Caretaker Federal Minister for National Health Services Regulations and Coordination, Dr. Nadeem Jan. - DNA

## AC shifted to SL due to Pak security issue: Shah

### President Jay Shah try to defended his decision to schedule the Asia Cup 2023 matches which have been disrupted by constant rain in Sri Lanka

SPORTS DESK

NEW DELHI: Asian Cricket Council (ACC) President Jay Shah defended his decision to schedule the Asia Cup 2023 matches which have been disrupted by constant rain in Sri Lanka. According to India Today, Shah - who is also the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) secretary - said that the decision to host matches in Sri Lanka was made after reluctance shown by other teams to play in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) due to heat. ACC and Shah have faced criticism from cricketing circles about the scheduling of the event as Sri

Lanka is experiencing heavy rains which is likely to affect the upcoming Super 4 matches. The group stage match between India and Pakistan was also washed out due to rain. "All the full members, media rights holders, and in-stadium rights holders were initially hesitant to commit to hosting the entire tournament in Pakistan. This reluctance stemmed from concerns related to the security and economic situation prevailing in the country," Shah said in a statement. "In my capacity as ACC president, I was committed to finding a viable and mutually agreeable solution. To this end, I had accepted the hybrid model that was



proposed by the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) in collaboration with the ACC management. However, it's important to note that the leadership of the PCB underwent several changes, and this resulted

in some back-and-forth negotiations, particularly regarding crucial aspects such as tax exemption and insurance for matches. "The Asia Cup 2022 edition was played in the UAE in the T20 format. It's important to emphasize that the dynamics of a T20 tournament cannot be directly compared to those of a 100-over One-day format. In this context, ACC members received feedback from their respective high-performance teams, expressing concerns about playing One-day matches in the UAE in the month of September. Such a schedule could have potentially led to player fatigue and an increased risk of injuries, particularly right before the all-impor-

tant ICC Cricket World Cup." Shah also said that all the decisions regarding the Asia Cup 2023 were made while keeping in mind the well-being of the players ahead of the ICC World Cup 2023 in India. "The decision-making process regarding the Asia Cup 2023 format and venue was guided by a sincere desire to prioritise the well-being of the players, as well as the overarching interests of the sport. Ultimately, the goal was to strike a balance that would allow for a competitive and successful tournament while ensuring the health and readiness of the participating teams for ICC Cricket World Cup 2023," Shah concluded.

## 'Israel enforcing...

FROM PAGE 01

Israel's military occupation is rare among leaders of the grassroots protest movement against the judicial overhaul, which has largely avoided talk of the occupation out of concern that it might scare away more national supporters. Pardo's remarks, and the overhaul, come as Israel's far-right government, which is made up of ultranationalist parties who support annexing the West Bank, is working to entrench Israel's hold on the territory. Some ministers have pledged to double the number of settlers currently living in the West Bank, which stands at a half-million. In apartheid South Africa, a system based on white supremacy and racial segregation was in place from 1948 until 1994. The rights groups have based their conclusions on Israel on international conventions like the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court. It defines apartheid as "an institutionalized regime of systematic oppression and domination by one racial group over any other racial group."

## Government cracks...

FORM PAGE 01

engaged in foreign exchange business will establish wholly owned Exchange Companies to cater to the legitimate foreign exchange needs of general public", a press release issued by the central bank stated. Under the reforms, various types of existing exchange companies and their franchises will be consolidated and transformed into a single category of "Exchange Companies" with a well-defined mandate. Moreover, the minimum capital requirement for exchange companies has been increased from Rs200 million to Rs500 million. Here are the Exchange Companies reforms • ECs-B may graduate to Exchange Companies after meeting all regulatory requirements, within three months; otherwise, their license would be cancelled. • Franchisees of Exchange Companies may either merge or sell operations to the concerned franchiser company, within three months after meeting all regulatory requirements.

## Japanese govt...

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meeting was to provide the Japanese delegation with a comprehensive insight into the inception, mission, mandate, and targeted investment sectors of SIFC. Furthermore, it aimed to tap into the invaluable perspectives of the Japanese delegation concerning the business dynamics between Pakistan and Japan, a news release said. A thorough presentation was delivered, elucidating SIFC's multifaceted role as a 'single-window' platform dedicated to facilitating potential investors from friendly nations. This presentation also encompassed an exploration of the extensive potential and investment prospects across diverse domains within key sectors, including Agriculture and Livestock, Information Technology, Mines and Minerals, and Energy.

## Army Act amend...

FORM PAGE 01

in the interest of national security and interest in the official capacity will be severely punished for up to five years, the disclosure with the permission of the Army Chief or the empowered officer will not be punished. The bill also said that officials that fall under the law will not be able to participate in political activities within two years of retirement, resignation or dismissal. According to the bill, a person involved in electronic crime, whose purpose is to defame the Pakistan Army, will be prosecuted under electronic crime. According to the Statement of Objects and Reasons of the bill - it is imperative to amend the Official Secrets Act 1923 and make it more effective in view of the changing social milieu to ensure safety and security of official documents. Section 3 of the bill stated that a person shall commit an offence if he intentionally for any purpose "approaches, inspects, passes over or is in the vicinity of, or enters, attacks, destroys or otherwise undermines any prohibited place"

## Briefs

## Humanitarian crisis in Sudan

KHARTOUM : Five million people have been displaced by civil war in Sudan, which is facing a rapidly mounting humanitarian emergency after months of serious fighting between the military and a rival paramilitary force. The displacement figure, provided by the International Organization for Migration, echoes a warning from the UN's main refugee agency, UNHCR, that more than \$1bn would be needed to support those fleeing the violence into neighbouring countries. The agency said a further 1.1 million people had fled to neighbouring countries, more than 750,000 of them to Egypt or Chad. It said about 24.7 million Sudanese, roughly half the country's population, were in need of humanitarian aid and protection. How I survived in Sudan: 'We had one lightbulb. For two terrifying months, we gathered round it as battle raged' On Tuesday, the UNHCR appealed for \$1bn to provide essential aid and protection to more than 1.8 million people expected to arrive in five neighbouring countries by the end of 2023, amounting to a twofold increase on what it initially estimated in May. "The crisis has triggered an urgent demand for humanitarian assistance, as those arriving in remote border areas find themselves in desperate circumstances due to inadequate services, poor infrastructure and limited access," said Mamadou Dian Balde, the UNHCR regional bureau director for the east and Horn of Africa and Great Lakes.—DNA

## Russia worried about Armenia's joint US drill

MOSCOW : The Kremlin on Wednesday expressed concern over Armenia's announcement of US troops participating in military exercises in the country, saying that Russia is thoroughly analyzing the situation and closely monitoring the latest developments in the region. "Such news causes wariness, especially in the current situation," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said at a news conference in Moscow, referring to an earlier Wednesday announcement by the Armenian Defense Ministry that the US military will join its forces in EaglePartner 2023 military drills in the country from Sept. 11 to 20. On Monday, the chair of the European Committee for NATO, Gunther Feilinger, said that Armenia should join the military alliance. Later in the day, Deputy Foreign Minister of Armenia Vahan Kostanyan stated that the country cooperates with NATO in various formats and is ready to continue this process. Regarding US Secretary of State Antony Blinken's visit to Ukraine, which began on Wednesday, Peskov said Washington pushed Kyiv to wage the war "until the last Ukrainian," but that this will have no impact on Russia's "special military operation." "We have repeatedly heard statements that they intend to continue to help Kyiv as much as necessary.—APP

## UN releases \$125 million humanitarian crises

UNITED NATIONS: The United Nations released \$125 million from its emergency relief fund Tuesday to boost underfunded humanitarian operations in 14 countries around the world, saying needs are skyrocketing. Afghanistan and Yemen top the list of recipients, with each getting \$20 million, followed by Burkina Faso and Myanmar at \$9 million each and Mali, Haiti and Venezuela at \$8 million each. The UN Central Emergency Relief Fund known will also provide \$6.5 million to both Central African Republic and Mozambique, \$6 million to both Cameroon and the Palestinian territories and \$4 million to Malawi. The fund will also provide \$8 million to support refugee operations in Bangladesh and \$6 million for refugees in Uganda. "It is a cruel reality that in many humanitarian operations.—APP

## Envoy encourages entrepreneurs to expand business with Indonesia

The Ambassador also warmly invited the members of EO to participate in the upcoming annual Trade Expo to be held in Indonesia in October 2023 and assured full facilitation from the Embassy

DNA

LAHORE: Indonesia is an exciting market for aspiring Pakistani entrepreneurs and new startups with innovative ideas, offering wonderful opportunities of mutual collaboration and business expansion. This was stated by the Ambassador of Indonesia Mr. Adam M. Tugio during a meeting with young business entrepreneurs of Entrepreneurs' Organization (EO) from textile, fintech, healthcare, food, dairy, furniture industry and energy sector. The Ambassador encouraged the members of EO to build trade connectivity with Indonesia which offers great market opportunities for innovative ideas and diversified products. The palm oil and coal dominate 75 percent of the whole bilateral trade while trade volume of Pakistani exports is less than its true potential, he added. Emphasizing the importance of promoting economic diplomacy, he said that young entrepreneurs as non traditional business partners can contribute a lot in enhancing trade activities with creative ideas such as specific markets of circular fashion, recycling economy and environment friendly products. Elaborating the changing pattern of consumer market and new trends, Ambassador Adam said that millennial population both in Indonesia and Pakistan is selective, health conscious and techno savvy and their needs must be addressed



with modern concepts and quality standards. Highlighting the scope of mutual collaboration in IT sector, Mr. Adam said that 50 percent of IT work goes to South Asia due to available expertise in this area. Indonesia is big market for Shariah economy as well which can be supported and facilitated with Fintech products and apps from Pakistani entrepreneurs. Similarly, halal

market especially halal cosmetics is another promising area of joint collaboration as both countries are members of D-8, which has a structured mechanism of PTA for intra-trade among D-8 countries, he said. The Ambassador also warmly invited the members of EO to participate in the upcoming annual Trade Expo to be held in Indonesia in October 2023 and assured

full facilitation from the Embassy. The President of EO Lahore Chapter Mr. Aqib Chaudhry sincerely thanked Mr. Adam for enlightening interaction with the entrepreneurs and expressed keen interest in further enhancing trade and business activities with Indonesia through the assistance and support of the Embassy in future. The Entrepreneurs Organization (EO) is a global

business network of 18 thousand influential business owners with 213 chapters in 75 countries that enables them to learn and grow from each other. The EO has also its presence in Indonesia with its Jakarta Chapter where more than 100 members from different business fields are part of this dynamic organisation for greater business successes.

## Southeast Asia Summits overshadowed by power disputes

JAKARTA : Southeast Asian leaders meet with top US, Chinese and Japanese officials at a series of summits in Indonesia on Wednesday, where big power rivalries and regional issues from the South China Sea to North Korean missiles will be on the table. The 10-member Association of Southeast Asia Nations (ASEAN) will hold separate summits with China, Japan, South Korea, the United States, and Canada, providing an arena for big powers to lobby the bloc. US Vice President Kamala Harris is attending in place of President Joe Biden, while Chinese Premier Li Qiang is taking part instead of President Xi Jinping. "We seek common ground while setting aside differences. We both have a relentless pursuit of peace," Li said in opening remarks at the ASEAN-China summit. "As long as we keep to the right path, no matter what storm

may come, China-ASEAN cooperation will be as firm as ever... against all odds." Wednesday's meetings will be more regional in scope before an 18-member East Asia Summit on Thursday to be attended by Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov, where broader geopolitical issues are expected to top the agenda. "At both summits, the vice president will underscore the United States' enduring commitment to the Indo-Pacific generally and to ASEAN centrality specifically," US National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan told reporters Tuesday, using another term for the Asia-Pacific region. Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida and South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol will also attend. They will meet with Li at an ASEAN plus three summit where a row between China and Japan over the release of treated waste-

water from the Fukushima nuclear plant could again come to the fore. Host Indonesia told an ASEAN leaders' summit on Tuesday that the bloc would not become a proxy for big power competition as US-China tensions continue to flare over Taiwan, the South China Sea, and Russia's invasion of Ukraine. The roundtable including Lavrov and Harris would be the first high-level US-Russia encounter since a foreign ministers' meeting in Jakarta in July, where US and European officials rounded on Moscow's top diplomat over the Ukraine conflict. A Southeast Asian diplomat present at Wednesday's meetings told AFP they would conclude with joint statements about closer diplomatic, economic, and food security collaboration between the powers and ASEAN. Li was scheduled

on Wednesday to visit a Beijing-funded high-speed rail project between Jakarta and the Javan city of Bandung, Indonesian officials said. "Severest consequences". Other regional issues such as North Korea's ballistic missile launches are also expected to feature prominently. South Korea's Yoon, in an interview with Indonesian newspaper Kompas on Tuesday, said he would push for ASEAN to "join forces" with Seoul to counter Pyongyang's nuclear threats. On Tuesday, Southeast Asian leaders strongly condemned the violence and attacks on civilians in Myanmar, directly blaming the junta. Indonesia said there had been scant progress on an agreed peace plan. China also upset several ASEAN members last week when it released a new official map claiming sovereignty over the majority of the South China Sea.—Agencies

## India's bid to undo UNSC reform process criticized

UNITED NATIONS: Without naming India, Pakistan told the UN Security Council that "one State" appeared bent on destroying the long-running Intergovernmental Negotiations (IGN) process aimed at expanding the 15-member body, stressing: "This will prove counterproductive." "To serve its misplaced ambitions, one 'State' appears willing to destroy the IGN process, which was established by the consensus support of the entire UN membership," Ambassador Munir Akram said, as he called for an improvement in the Security Council's working method, the subject of Tuesday's debate. Since 2009, India, along with Brazil, Germany and Japan — known as G-4 — has been pushing for a permanent seat on the U.N.'s high table, a bid strongly opposed by the Italy/Pakistan-led Uniting for Consensus (UfC) group which opposes any additional permanent members. Instead, UfC has proposed a new category of members — not permanent members — with longer duration in terms and a possibility to get re-elected. The Security Council is currently composed of five permanent members — Britain, China, France, Russia and the United States — and 10 non-permanent members elected to two-year term. In June, when the General Assembly rolled over the Security Council reform to the 78th session, India lashed out at the move, calling it a "wasted opportunity." Indian Ambassador Ruchira Kamboj went on to warn that India was "looking beyond the IGN... as the only viable pathway to a future UN Security Council that would better reflect the world of today." At the same June meeting, Ambassador Akram, the Pakistani envoy, defended the IGN process.—DNA

## 2023 summer was hottest ever on record

UNITED NATIONS: Summer of 2023 was the hottest ever recorded, the UN's weather agency said on Wednesday. "It was the hottest August on record — by a large margin — and the second hottest ever month after July 2023," according to the UN's World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and EU's Copernicus Climate Change Service. "The northern hemisphere just had a summer of extremes," WMO Secretary-General Petteri Taalas said in a statement, recalling the wildfires and the heat waves. "In the southern hemisphere Antarctic sea ice extent was literally off the charts, and the global sea surface temperature was once again at a new record," he added. UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, for his part, said: "Our planet has just endured a season of simmering — the hottest summer on record," and warned against the "climate breakdown." "Scientists have long warned what our fossil fuel addiction will unleash," he added and urged leaders to take action and find solutions. Carlo Buontempo, director of the Copernicus Climate Change Service, said that 2023 was the second warmest year on record, according to eight-month data already. The record-breaking levels and their impacts on both the people and the planet are clearly indicating "the warming of the climate system," he said.—APP

## Israel in midst of social crisis

JERUSALEM :Israeli President Isaac Herzog said Wednesday Israel is living a constitutional and social crisis amid a rift over a government plan for judicial overhaul. "The State of Israel has been in the midst of an acute constitutional and social crisis for almost nine months, which has dangerously shaken the society, the economy, and especially the security of the State of Israel," Herzog said in a speech in West Jerusalem. Herzog has been mediating between the government and opposition to reach a compromise on the planned judicial reform. "We must resolve the difficult and dangerous crisis between the different branches of government, and determine the healthy and correct balance of powers between them," he said. "It is time to show responsibility, look reality in the eyes, and act in every way to reach a broad consensus," the Israeli president said. Israel has been in political turmoil in recent months over a government plan to introduce judicial reforms seen by the opposition as a power grab in favor of the executive authority. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, however, insists that the reform would enhance democracy and restore the balance among the legislative, executive and judicial branches of government.

## Germany's factory orders plunge

Berlin : German factory orders declined more than expected in July, pulling back after a large gain in the aerospace sector in the previous month, the data shared by the federal statistics office revealed on Wednesday. Incoming orders fell by 11.7% on the previous month on a seasonally and calendar-adjusted basis. "The big fluctuations in new orders seen in the past months therefore continued to be observed in July 2023," said the office, which added that July's sharp decline was due to a very large order in air and spacecraft manufacturing the month before. Orders had posted an unexpected jump in June, rising by a revised 7.6% month-over-month, versus expectations of a 2.0% dip. Analysts pointed to weakness in the global economy as a reason for the trend. "Germany is at the mercy of the global economy — the latter is not in good shape at present," said Thomas Gitzel of VP Bank Group. "It is therefore not surprising that the underlying order intake is weak." Alexander Krueger, chief economist at Hauck Aufhaeuser Lampe Privatbank, added: "The thumb continues to point downward for the industrial sector.—Agencies

## Poland spent \$23.8B in weapons purchases

ATHENS : Poland has placed a purchase order for nearly \$24 billion in weapons to increase security amid regional tensions following a Russia-Ukraine war, with Warsaw openly supporting Kyiv and its neighbor Belarus siding with Moscow. Warsaw has ordered a massive new armament package worth 100 billion Polish zloty (approximately \$23.8 billion), local media reported on Tuesday. The package was signed by Defense Minister Mariusz Blaszczak at the 31st International Defense Industry Exhibition in the southern city of Kielce and includes air-defense systems, anti-ship missile systems, and drones, the state-run PAP news agency reported. It added that 48 new batteries of the US-made Patriot medium-range air defense system, components for the Narew short-range air defense system, equipment for two new Naval Rocket Units, and some 1,700 Polish-made FlyEye observation drones to be purchased. During the signing ceremony, Blaszczak emphasized that the country is systematically and successfully building a multi-layered system of anti-aircraft and anti-missile defense. Commenting on the package, President Andrzej Duda said that the new military equipment ordered would help.—Agencies

## Umerov elected as new defense minister

FOREIGN DESK

KYIV : Ukraine's parliament approved the appointment of former lawmaker Rustem Umerov as defense minister on Wednesday, in the biggest shake-up of the defense establishment since Russia's invasion 18 months ago. Umerov, 41, replaces Oleksii Reznikov, who had helped secure billions of dollars of Western military aid as defense minister but was dogged by media allegations of corruption at the ministry and dismissed by President Volodymyr Zelen-



sky on Sunday. Reznikov did not face corruption allegations himself, but says he is the victim of a smear campaign. His removal is not expected to affect Ukraine's military strategy. For the

latest headlines, follow our Google News channel online or via the app. "Welcome aboard, Minister," the defense ministry wrote on X after parliament voted overwhelmingly to back Umerov's nomination. Lawmakers had approved Reznikov's removal on Monday, after he tendered his resignation following Zelenskyy's decision to dismiss him. When proposing Umerov, a Crimean Tatar, Zelenskyy said new approaches and other forms of interaction with the military and society were needed as Russia's invasion entered its 19th month. "To

head the defense institution during the full-scale war with Russia is a big responsibility," Prime Minister Denys Shmyhal said. "We expect that the new minister will quickly step into his duties and continue reforms of the defense sector." Before his appointment, Umerov, who speaks English and Turkish, headed Ukraine's main privatization agency — the State Property Fund — for about a year. He was credited for overturning the institution and restarting the efforts to sell loss-making state-owned companies to private investors despite the war.

## UK, Turkey join hands against human trafficking gang

Sunak says he spoke with President Erdogan on what can be done to tackle organized immigration crime

NEWS DESK

LONDON :UK and Türkiye are "stepping up joint operations" to target human trafficking tactics across Europe, the British prime minister said Wednesday. Responding to a question at the House of Commons about the supply chain of small boats, often referred as dinghies, Rishi Sunak said everything must be done "to stop the boats and tackle illegal migration." "We know that the export of small boats across parts of the European continent is a vital element of the smuggling gangs' tactics. And that's why specifically we are stepping up joint operations with Türkiye," he said. Sunak said he had raised this issue with President Recep Tayyip Erdogan "when we spoke so that we can tackle organized immigration crime and specifically disrupt the supply chain of both parts that are used for these dangerous crossings." The Channel



crossings to the UK from French coasts have been on the spotlight as the numbers of migrants entering the country has steadily risen for the past years. More than 870 migrants were detected crossing the English Channel via small boats last Saturday, a record number on a single day so far in 2023, the UK Home Office said on Sunday. A total of 872 people in 15 small boats crossed the Channel on Saturday, breaking the previous single-day record on Aug. 10, when 756 migrants were detected. A total of 1,232 migrants in 21 small boats were detected crossing the English Channel between Aug. 27 and Sept. 2, according to official data. Meanwhile, the backlog of asylum seeker cases in Britain has hit a new record high, with 175,457 people waiting for a decision on asylum application in the UK at the end of June 2023, a 44% increase from the end of June 2022, according to official figures released last month.

## Briefs

### New Saudi envoy arrives in Tehran

DNA

RIYADH: Saudi Arabia's new ambassador to Iran Abdullah bin Saud Al-Anazi arrived in Tehran on Tuesday to start his mission, Saudi Press Agency reported. Upon his arrival in the Iranian capital, Al-Anazi said the directives of the Saudi leadership emphasize the importance of strengthening relations and intensifying communication and meetings between the Kingdom and Iran.

He added that the Kingdom seeks to move relations between the two neighboring countries to broader horizons considering they possess economic components, natural resources, and advantages that contribute to enhancing aspects of development, prosperity, stability and security in the region and for the common benefit of the two countries and their peoples.

The ambassador stressed that the Kingdom's Vision 2030 represents a road map that reflects all aspects of cooperation that can be built upon to enhance it according to a strategic perspective that establishes the principles of good neighborliness, understanding, purposeful dialogue, and respect to enhance mutual trust between the two countries. Saudi Arabia and Iran agreed in March to reestablish diplomatic relations and reopen their embassies following years of tensions between the two countries.

### Torkham border shuts after skirmish

SHAMIM SHAHID

PESHAWAR: The main point of transit for travelers and goods between Pakistan and landlocked Afghanistan, Torkham border crossing, was closed on Wednesday as security forces from both countries exchanged fire, security sources said. Local residents reported the sound of gunfire by the Torkham crossing and said people around the busy border area near the Khyber Pass had fled once the firing started. Security officials from the area, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said that Taliban and Pakistani forces had exchanged fire but there had not yet been any casualties.

A spokesman for the local government in Afghanistan's Nangarhar province, where the crossing is located, and a spokeswoman for Pakistan's foreign office did not immediately respond to request for comment. Disputes linked to the 2,600 km (1,615 miles) border have been a bone of contention between the neighbours for decades. The crossing has been closed several times in recent years, including a closure in February that saw thousands of trucks laden with goods stranded on each side of border for days.

# Lack of funding UN food agency ends aid to 2 mln Afghanis

WFP officials in Afghanistan said it can only give emergency aid to 3mln people per month

## CENTRELINE REPORT

NEW YORK: A global funding shortfall is forcing the World Food Programme (WFP), a Rome-based UN agency, to drop 2 million people from food assistance in Afghanistan on top of the 8 million the organization stopped helping earlier, the programme said Tuesday. WFP officials in Afghanistan said it can only give emergency aid to 3 million people per month. "Amid already worrying levels of hunger and malnutrition, we are obliged to choose between the hungry and the starving, leaving millions of families scrambling for their next meal," said Hsiao-Wei Lee, WFP's Country Director Representative based in Kabul.

In March, the UN food agency had to reduce rations from 75 to 50 per cent

for communities experiencing emergency levels of hunger. In the following two months, it was forced to cut off food assistance to eight million people. This brings the total number of people forced to go without WFP support this year in the country to a staggering 10 million - whilst more than one-third of the population go to bed hungry every night. The UN agency emphasized that this will add to an already "dire situation" and have severe consequences for civilians. This is particularly true for women who are increasingly being marginalized in Afghan society, owing to their narrowing options for making a living or to feed their children.

Since the Taliban seized power in Afghanistan in 2021, they have issued a cascade of restrictive orders that amounts to "extreme institutionalized gender-based discrimina-

tion" and a systematic chipping away of the rights of women and girls, according to UN-appointed human rights experts.

The cuts also mean that approximately 1.4 million new and expecting mothers and their children are no longer receiving specialized food designed to prevent malnutrition, which will cause a sharp rise in admissions to nutrition centres, the agency warned. Echoing that message, the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) warned that Afghanistan is facing an unprecedented humanitarian crisis with a "serious risk of systemic collapse and human catastrophe".

Two years since the Taliban took control, 29.2 million people are now in need of assistance - over two-thirds of the country's population. To respond to the funding crisis, WFP has urged the international

community to provide an additional \$1 billion over the next six months, in order to reach 21 million people with lifesaving aid. This includes pre-positioning food for remote communities ahead of the looming, harsh winter. "A small window of opportunity remains to avert catastrophe in Afghanistan, but we are running out of time," said Ms. Lee. "The cost of inaction will be paid by the most vulnerable women and children reeling from the impact of 40 years of conflict, a crippled economy and a worsening climate crisis." WFP also reported it is going through "a crippling funding crisis", forcing it to scale back life-saving assistance globally when acute hunger is at record levels. Almost half of WFP's country operations have had to cut the size and scope of their assistance programmes.

### US imposes sanctions on Sudanese paramilitary leader

CAIRO: The United States imposed sanctions Wednesday on a Sudanese paramilitary commander Abdelrahman Hamdan Dagalo for acts of violence and human rights abuses committed by his troops in their monthslong conflict with Sudan's army. In a lengthy statement, the U.S. Treasury said it had sanctioned Abdelrahman - a senior military commander and brother of Mohammed Hamdan Dagalo who is the head of the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces - accusing him of leading a group of soldiers responsible for "the massacre of civilians, ethnic killings, and use of sexual violence." Sudan plunged into chaos almost five months ago when long-simmering tensions between the military, led by Gen. Abdel Fattah Burhan, and the RSF escalated into open warfare. - Agencies

## New Chinese ambassador Jiang Zaidong arrives



ISLAMABAD: The Chinese new Ambassador Mr. Jiang Zaidong has arrived in Islamabad, and was warmly welcomed by Pakistani officials & representatives of the Embassy. Ambassador Jiang is committed to strengthening China-Pa-

kistan ironclad friendship and all-weather strategic cooperation. Pakistan and China enjoy excellent relations and it is expected that during the tenure of Mr. Jiang these relations would further be strengthened. - DNA

## Trump shouldn't be an exception for Jan. 6

JAKARTA: Vice President Kamala Harris said Wednesday that those responsible for the effort to overturn the results of the 2020 presidential election and the ensuing violence at the U.S. Capitol must be held accountable - even if that means Donald Trump. "Let the evidence, the facts, take it where it may," Harris said in an interview with American media in Jakarta, Indonesia, where she was attending a regional summit. Federal prosecutors have indicted Trump, the front-runner for the 2024 Republican presidential nomination, for his efforts to cling to power in 2020. The former president also has been charged in Georgia in a scheme to subvert the will of voters who elected Democrat Joe Biden instead of giving Trump a second term. "I spent the majority of my career as a prosecutor," said Harris, who served as California's attorney general before moving to Washington as a U.S. senator. "I believe that people should be held accountable under the law. And when they break the law, there should be accountability." The White House has been circumspect in addressing the issue of criminal charges against Trump, who has pleaded not guilty, to avoid any whiff of political meddling in the work of prosecutors, particularly as Biden seeks a second term in 2024. - Agencies

## IG promises 'good news' in Imran Riaz case

PUNJAB Inspector General (IG) Dr Usman Anwar on Wednesday told a court hearing a plea to locate anchorperson Imran Riaz that police would deliver "good news" in the next few days, following which his request for more time to find the journalist was accepted. Riaz's whereabouts remain unknown since his arrest at the Sialkot airport on May 11 - two days after violent protests broke out across the country following PTI Chairman Imran Khan's arrest on May 9. He was last known to be taken to Cantt police station after his arrest and later to the Sialkot prison. Riaz was among a number of journalists who were taken into custody following the May 9 protests. Subsequently, a first information report (FIR) of Riaz's alleged abduction was registered with Sialkot Civil Lines police on May 16 on the complaint of the anchorperson's father, Muhammad Riaz. - APP

## China warns against 'new Cold War'

"Disagreements and disputes may arise between countries due to misperceptions, diverging interests or external interferences"

JAKARTA: China's premier said on Wednesday major powers must keep their differences under control and avoid "a new Cold War", in a thinly veiled reference to Washington, as top Asian and US officials gathered for talks in Indonesia. Beijing has expressed concern about US-backed blocs forming on its doorstep, while facing disputes with other powers in the region over the South China Sea and other issues. "Disagreements and disputes may arise between countries due to misperceptions, diverging interests or external interferences," Li Qiang said at the start of an ASEAN-plus-three meeting with Japan and South Korea in Jakarta. "To keep differences under control, what is essential now is to oppose picking sides, to oppose bloc confrontation and to oppose a new Cold War." The 10-member Association of Southeast Asia Nations (ASEAN) is holding separate summits with China, Japan, South Korea, the United States and Canada on Wednesday, providing an arena for big powers to lobby the bloc and their rivalries to play out. US Vice President Kamala Harris is attending in place of President Joe Biden, while Li was taking part instead of President Xi Jinping. His comments came after Chinese Defence Minister Li Shangfu in June warned against establishing NATO-like alliances in the Asia-Pacific region, calling for "inclusive cooperation" instead of "small cliques" at the Shangri-La Dialogue in Singapore. - Agencies

## Blome highlights benefits of US private sector investment

Underscores Strength of US - Pakistan Partnership During Visit to Lahore

### BUREAU REPORT / DNA

LAHORE: US Ambassador Donald Blome visited Lahore September 4-6 to promote U.S.-Pakistan trade and economic ties, broaden and deepen cooperation with the people and government of Punjab, and discuss the importance of protecting and respecting human rights and fundamental freedoms for all. During his visit to PepsiCo's FritoLay Snack plant and NetSol Technologies Ltd, Ambassador Blome and Consul General Hawkins reaffirmed the United States' commitment to trade, investment, and development with and through the private sector in Punjab. Ambassador Blome highlighted the benefits of U.S. trade and investment and showcased the significant role U.S.

companies play - creating jobs and giving back to local communities through corporate social responsibility initiatives that promote education, health, disaster relief, women's empowerment, and skills development. "Pakistan has tremendous economic potential. The United States is working every day to help Pakistan make progress on economic reforms that will make it more competitive and better prepared to meet future challenges. That includes our cooperation to build more reliable energy systems, strengthen and improve infrastructure, increase capacity for regional trade, and ensure that Pakistanis have the skills and training needed to compete and succeed in the 21st century," Ambassador Blome said. While in Lahore, Ambassador Blome and Consul General Hawkins also met with caretaker

Punjab Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi. The leaders discussed opportunities to expand U.S.-Pakistan economic ties, the importance of protecting the human rights and fundamental freedoms of religious minorities, and respect for democracy and rule of law. In his meetings with representatives of religious groups, the Ambassador and Consul General Hawkins reiterated U.S. condemnation of recent attacks on Christian churches and homes, emphasized U.S. commitment to protect and promote religious freedom, and underscored the importance of protecting and respecting human rights and fundamental freedoms for all. The Ambassador and Consul General discussed with Punjab Inspector General of Police Usman Anwar law enforcement cooperation, respect for the rule of law, the protection of human rights.

## Ukraine war: 16 killed in missile attack

KYIV: At least 16 people have been killed in a missile attack on the Ukrainian city of Kostyantynivka. President Volodymyr Zelensky, who blamed Russia, said those killed were "people who did nothing wrong" - and warned the death toll could increase. Kostyantynivka, in Ukraine's eastern Donetsk region, is near the front line. "This Russian evil must be defeated as soon as possible," Mr. Zelensky added. The authorities in Moscow are yet to comment on the claims. Among the 16 dead are a child, with at least 28 others thought to be injured. "All services are working," Ukrainian Prime Minister Denys Shmyhal said, adding: "The fire is contained." A market, shops and a pharmacy are reported to have been hit. Videos circulating on social media appear to show the moment of the explosion and its graphic aftermath. It took place in a busy street as people were flocking to market stalls and café terraces. An investigation into the attack has been launched by Ukraine's prosecutor-general, which its office said was in pursuit of "criminal proceedings for violation of the laws and customs of war". "Prosecutors are taking all possible and appropriate measures to record war crimes committed by the Russian Federation," a statement added. Officials in Russia have not yet claimed responsibility for the attack. They have

previously denied targeting citizens as part of their offensive. The attack on Wednesday coincided with a visit by US Secretary of State Antony Blinken to Ukraine's capital, Kyiv, where he was due to meet Mr. Zelensky. It was assumed he would announce a fresh US aid package for the war-torn country during his trip. Kostyantynivka sits close to the battlefield and has been hit on various occasions this year as a result: On 2 April: Six civilians were killed, with missiles and rockets damaging 16 apartment blocks and a nursery school. On 13 May: Two people - including a 15-year-old girl - were killed in an attack using Smerch rockets that hit high-rise buildings, houses, a petrol station, a pharmacy and shops. On 24 July: Two children were killed in an attack, which Ukraine said Russian officials used cluster munitions to carry out. It is also about 17 miles (27km) from the city of Bakhmut, where fighting is known to have been intense for some time. The city of Donetsk has been controlled by Russia's proxy authorities since 2014, who have repeatedly accused Ukrainian forces of targeting it since the war with Russia began last February. Ihor Klimentenko, Ukraine's interior minister, shared images on Telegram of what he said were rescue workers sifting through the rubble. - Agencies

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